

[0067] What is claimed is:

1. A content organization system comprising:
  - a user interface;
  - one or more content files;
  - a means of defining one or more content groups;
  - a means of assigning said content into one or more of said content groups; and
  - a means of tracking and storing user rights associated with said content files.
2. The content organization system of Claim 1, in which said means of creating content groups allows a user to define custom content groups.
3. The content organization system of Claim 1, in which said means of creating content groups automatically creates content groups based on content attributes and assigns said content file to the appropriate content groups.
4. The content organization system of Claim 3, in which said content group association means is capable of receiving order confirmation information from a content distributor and automatically acquiring and categorizing content based on such order confirmation information.
5. The content organization system of Claim 1, in which said one or more content files are distributed across a plurality of content storage systems.
6. The content organization system of Claim 1, in which said content group association means allows said content groups to contain not only references to individual content, but also other content groups.
7. The content organization system of Claim 1, in which said user interface uses one of a plurality of presentation adapters to display said content groups, said content attributes, and said content in a manner preferred by a user.
8. The content organization system of Claim 7, in which said content group association means allows content groups containing other content groups to be arranged in a hierarchical fashion.

9. The content organization system of Claim 1, further comprising a means for monitoring and controlling content based on rights granted to a user through digital rights management attributes associated with said content.
10. The content organization system of Claim 9, further comprising:
  - a user identification and authentication means; and
  - an interface through which a user may selectively give one or more others varying rights to content stored within one or more of said content groups.
11. The content organization system of Claim 10, in which said user identification and authentication means includes a biometric identifier and associated biometric equipment.
12. The content organization system of Claim 10, in which said one or more others includes both unauthenticated and authenticated users.
13. The content organization system of Claim 10, in which said content monitoring and controlling means also allows transferring of said digital rights management attributes to other users.
14. The content organization system of Claim 13, in which said digital rights management attribute transfers include a time restriction, thereby allowing users to loan content to other users.
15. The content organization system of Claim 14, in which said content monitoring and controlling means also provides for electronic commerce transactions.
16. An extensible content storage system comprising:
  - a content storage means;
  - one or more order processing templates, which translate received order confirmations into a standardized format that can be interpreted by the system;
  - and
  - one or more content adaptor templates, which translate said content for display by a rendering device.
17. An extensible content storage method, comprising the steps of:
  - placing a content order with a content distributor;
  - receiving an order confirmation from said content distributor;

determining said order confirmation type;  
 translating said order confirmation into a standard format;  
 obtaining said ordered content from said content distributor;  
 obtaining available content attributes from said content distributor; and  
 storing said ordered content and said available content attributes in a content storage system.

18. The extensible content storage method of Claim 17, in which said available content attributes include content rights information and content rules.

19. The extensible content storage method of Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:  
 periodically reviewing said content rights information; and,  
 executing appropriate content rules based on said periodic reviews.

20. The extensible content storage method of Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:  
 allowing a user to select content to be rendered and a content rendering device to perform such rendering;  
 determining content rendering device capabilities;  
 selecting a content adapter consistent with said content rules and said rendering device capabilities; and  
 adapting said selected content such that said rendering device is capable of rendering said selected content.

21. The extensible content storage method of Claim 18, in which said content storage system distributes said content and content attributes across a plurality of storage devices.

22. An extensible content rendering method, comprising the steps of:  
 allowing a user to select content to be rendered;  
 allowing a user to select a rendering device to render said selected content;  
 determining rendering capabilities of said rendering device;  
 installing one or more additional rendering systems on said rendering device if said rendering device is not capable of adequately rendering said content;  
 polling said rendering device to determine content security capabilities of said rendering device;  
 installing one or more additional security systems on said rendering device if said rendering device is not capable of adequately securing said content while said content is stored on and rendered by said rendering device;

transmitting said content to said rendering device; and  
rendering of said content by said rendering .

23. The content rendering method of Claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

selecting a content adapter template from a plurality of available content adapter  
templates based on rendering systems available on said rendering device; and  
transforming said content using said selected content adapter.

24. The content rendering method of Claim 23, in which said content adapter template is  
further selected based on rules associated with said content.

25. The content rendering method of Claim 23, in which said content is transformed into  
a format capable of most accurately reproducing said content on said rendering  
device.